Today's News - Monday, June 11, 2007

ArcSpace takes us to Copenhagen and Arkansas, and offers an eyeful of Zumthor's Brother Claus Field Chapel in Mechemich, Germany. — Glancey finds the chapel's "simple form proves to be far richer than it first appears." — Success for L.A. Live depends on its public elements. — Gentrification is an uncertain blessing for another L.A. neighborhood. — Cities finally beginning to get things right with affordable housing projects. — As costs rise for Glasgow's new transport museum, Hadid may have to trim some more (oh those skeptics who blame innovative design). — Budget doesn't seem to be a problem for her Opus in Dubai (and check out a new phrase for your lexicon: "Oyster concept"). — MacMillan waxes poetic about Nelson-Atkins - and draws some interesting comparisons between Holl and Libeskind museums. — A call to make Dubai more pedestrian-friendly. — Kamin on Chicago's latest "battles over whether (and how) to make the past a part of the future." — British architects call for an end to Mock-Tudor and "Disneytecture." — "Constraints are an inspiration to genius" in Heatherwick's beach cafe for Littlehampton, U.K. — "New kicks" in store for Route 66. — Still more on the rail threat to Gaudi's cathedral. — The only starchitect names not on the list for new museum on Saadiyat Island is because they're already designing other stuff. — Call for entries for design competition for downtown Charlottesville, VA.

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-- Peter Zumthor: Brother Claus Field Chapel, Mechernich, Germany
-- 3XNielsen: Concert Hall, Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen
-- Polshek Partnership Architects: William J. Clinton Presidential Center, Little Rock, Arkansas

Solitary refinement: Peter Zumthor's fame has spread worldwide, but his latest project couldn't be more humble...Bruder Klaus Field Chapel...a contemporary take on the hermit's chapel and cell...simple form proves to be far richer than it first appears. By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian (UK)

Op-Ed: More Than a Building: L.A. Live's Success Depends On Its Public Elements, Not Just the Hotel Tower...envisioned...to be L.A.'s equivalent to New York's Times Square...with a few more ounces of effort and a touch of imaginative planning and programming...could be more than a Times Square... By Sam Hall Kaplan -- Gensler; RTKL; Rios Clement Hale Studios- LA Downtown News

Westlake: From gritty roots to the new chic: With crime down and gentrification seemingly inevitable, the Westlake/MacArthur Park area balances its history with its future...for the ethnic families who made Westlake home long before it sparkled in a trust-funder's eye, gentrification is an uncertain blessing.- Los Angeles Times

High standards at low costs: The popular image of affordable housing consists of faceless brick towers in trashed-out lots...American cities are learning how to design safe, sound and successful developments. By David Dillon -- Goody Clancy & Associates; Rob Wellington Quigley; Michael Pyatok; David Baker & Partners- Dallas Morning News

Cost of Glasgow's new transport museum rises to £74m...almost 50%..."Yes we want nice buildings but these innovative designs tend to be the ones that go way over budget. The building is not the important thing..." -- Zaha Hadid- The Herald (UK)

Cybertecture sawy: Omniyat Properties' bold bid to create the 'smartest' buildings in the Middle East...want to be recognised...as pioneers in a new field...'Cybertecture' - architecture that incorporates technology into the design and operations of a building to make it more efficient and user-friendly. — Zaha Hadid; DEGW- ArabianBusiness.com

K.C.'s artful new museum: ...the most apt word to describe the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's new addition is "poetic."...While Denver's jutting, angular addition, designed by Daniel Libeskind, is hard- edged, assertive and even disorienting at times, the Nelson-Atkins' wing is airy, graceful and calming. By Kyle MacMillan -- Steven Holl- Denver Post

Op-Ed: Walk this way: While the emirate's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) continues to launch projects designed to ease the traffic...one can't help but wonder why more money is not spent on pedestrian areas and crossings...it is still yet to be seen whether one day Dubai will be transformed into a pedestrian-friendly city...-ArabianBusiness.com

Between these Walls: Two athletic clubs face uncertain future...both demand the highest level of scrutiny as Chicago girds for the latest of its periodic battles over whether (and how) to make the past a part of the future. By Blair Kamin — Henry Ives Cobb (1893); Jarvis Hunt (1927); Harry Weese (1989); VOA; Lucien Lagrange [slide show]- Chicago Tribune

Architects call for end to 'Mock Tudor': ...forget "Disneytecture" and create buildings that look as if they belong to the 21st century.- icWales

Fresh seafood served here: Thomas Heatherwick's stunning East Beach Cafe

reverses 120 years of decline in Littlehampton...constraints are an inspiration to genius. By Stephen Bayley- Guardian (UK)

New Kicks on Route 66 for Commercial Builders: Aficionados of the storied highway hope that the restoration of a famous stop for travelers will anchor a revival of motel culture and tourism. -- Taylor Louden; Society for Commercial Archeology- New York Times

Warning: Trains Coming. A Masterpiece Is at Risk: The architect in charge of efforts to complete Antonio Gaudî's unfinished masterwork La Sagrada Familia says the building is threatened by a planned train tunnel. — Jordi Bonet- New York Times

13 of the world's top architectural firms in Sheikh Zayed National Museum design competition ...emphasis on the design criteria of environmental efficiency and sustainability -- Christian de Portzamparc; A.N. Tombazias & Associates; Bernard Tschumi/Eisenman Architects; Dar-Al Omran; Fosters + Partners; Hans Hollein; Mario Bellini/M. Fuksa; Moriyama & Teshima; Shigeru Ban; Ricardo Bofill; Snohetta- AME Info (United Arab Emirates)

<u>Call for entries: MarketValue: a design competition for downtown Charlottesville's Water Street; registration deadline: September 7- City of Charlottesville (Virginia)</u>

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